



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

November 16, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR CO-CHAIRS AND MEMBERS, NAVY AND MARINE
CORPS SAFETY COUNCIL
CHAIR AND MEMBERS, EXECUTIVE SAFETY BOARD

SUBJECT: Secretary of Defense 50% Mishap Reduction Challenge Report

In May 2003 Secretary of Defense challenged Military Departments to reduce mishaps and mishap rates by 50% by end Fiscal Year (FY) 05 from baseline FY02. Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations, and Commandant of the Marine Corps embraced the challenge and provided guidance. The effort was based on the principles that mishaps should not be accepted as business as usual, that most mishaps are preventable, and that mishap prevention leads to increased readiness. We introduced numerous organizational factors to support safety including the Safety Council.

Congratulations to the men and women of our Navy and Marine Corps team for strikingly surpassing the Department of Defense (DoD) mishap reduction average (Encl 1). While not achieving the full 50% goal, we made significant headway in the right direction. Using an average of the top three DoD metrics, Marine Corps achieved an average 35% reduction, and Navy 23%, comparing favorably to the overall DoD reduction of 16%. We are working across DoD to validate the data on the fourth DoD metric, military injury case rate, to develop countermeasures to improve. Department of the Navy success translates to at least sixty Sailors and Marines who are alive today as a result of improved private motor vehicle fatality rates over the past two fiscal years. It means that civilian employees worked 20,000 more days in 2005 than they would have at 2002 injury rates, and that warfighting assets were available rather than needlessly destroyed in preventable mishaps.

We still have much work to do to elevate the safety aspects of the organizational culture, as befits a world-class organization. DoD established a new challenge in the FY06-11 Strategic Planning Guidance to continue reducing mishaps and mishap rates by 75% by the end of FY08, once again using FY02 as our baseline. To attack this 75% mishap reduction challenge, to enhance our organizational culture, and to institutionalize progress made, we are designing a comprehensive action plan to execute our Naval Safety Strategy. The goal is to achieve the Naval safety vision of integrating safety and operational risk management into all we do. Thank you for your remarkable leadership in enhancing the Naval culture of prudent operational risk management.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Connie K. DeWitte", is positioned above the typed name.

Connie K. DeWitte
Deputy Assistant Secretary (Safety)

Attachments:
As stated